

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-44, and add the following new Claims 45-111.

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45. An absorbent article, comprising:  
a liquid-permeable layer;  
a substantially liquid-impermeable layer; and  
an absorbent body between the liquid-permeable layer and the  
substantially liquid-impermeable layer;  
the absorbent body comprising a flowable absorbent material which  
remains able to flow after contact with a liquid.

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46. The absorbent article of Claim 45, wherein the flowable  
absorbent material comprises absorbent particles.

47. The absorbent article of Claim 46, wherein the absorbent  
particles comprise spherical particles.

48. The absorbent article of Claim 46, wherein the absorbent  
particles have a diameter of about 100-2000 microns.

sub 2 49. The absorbent article of Claim 46, wherein the absorbent particles have a diameter of about 200-800 microns.

sub 2 50. The absorbent article of Claim 45, wherein the flowable absorbent material comprises polymethylene area.

sub 2 51. The absorbent article of Claim 50, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least about one third by weight of the flowable absorbent material.

a2 52. The absorbent article of Claim 50, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least about one half by weight of the flowable absorbent material.

53. The absorbent article of Claim 50, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least about two thirds by weight of the flowable absorbent material.

54. The absorbent article of Claim 50, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least about 80% by weight of the flowable absorbent material.

55. The absorbent article of Claim 50, wherein the flowable absorbent material consists essentially of the polymethylene urea.

56. The absorbent article of Claim 50, wherein the polymethylene urea is substantially free of ether groups and formaldehyde.

57. The absorbent article of Claim 45, wherein the flowable absorbent material comprises a superabsorbent material.

58. The absorbent article of Claim 57, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises a polyacrylate.

59. The absorbent article of Claim 45, wherein the absorbent body further comprises a fibrous matrix, and the flowable absorbent material is disposed within the matrix.

60. The absorbent article of Claim 45, wherein the absorbent body further comprises at least one care substance.

61. The absorbent article of Claim 60, wherein the care substance comprises a material selected from extracts of aloe vera, marigold, chamomile, and combinations thereof.

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63. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the absorbent body  
ally liquid-impermeable layer are connected using an adhesive.

64. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the absorbent body and substantially liquid-impermeable layer are connected using one or more seams.

65. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the absorbent body further comprises a secondary storage layer including a soft absorbent material.

67. The absorbent article of Claim 65, wherein the soft absorbent material comprises a nonwoven material selected from spunbond fabrics, carded webs, and combinations thereof.

68. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the absorbent body further comprises a fibrous matrix, and the flowable absorbent material is disposed within the matrix.

69. The absorbent article of Claim 68, wherein the flowable absorbent material is disposed substantially homogeneously within the matrix.

70. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the absorbent body further comprises two or more layers of a fibrous material, and the flowable absorbent material is disposed between the layers of fibrous material.

71. The absorbent article of Claim 68, wherein the fibrous matrix comprises a material selected from cellulose, a cellulose/polypropylene mixture, a coform material, and combinations thereof.

72. The absorbent article of Claim 70, wherein the two or more layers of fibrous material comprise a material selected from cellulose, a cellulose/polypropylene mixture, a coform material, and combinations thereof.

73. The absorbent article of Claim 68, wherein the absorbent body comprises the fibrous material and flowable absorbent material in a weight ratio of about 99-75% fibrous material to about 1-25% flowable absorbent material.

74. The absorbent article of Claim 73, wherein the weight ratio is about 95-80% fibrous material to about 5-20% flowable absorbent material.

75. The absorbent article of Claim 73, wherein the weight ratio is about 90-85% fibrous material to about 10-15% flowable absorbent material.

76. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the absorbent body further comprises at least one care substance.

77. The absorbent article of Claim 76, wherein the care substance comprises a material selected from extracts of aloe vera, marigold, chamomile, and combinations thereof.

78. The absorbent article of Claim 76, wherein the care substance is enclosed in microcapsules.

79. The absorbent article of Claim 78, wherein the care substance is releaseable from the microcapsules in response to heat or pressure.

80. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the flowable absorbent material is treated with a substance selected from bactericidal, fungicidal and viricidal substances, and combinations thereof.

81. The absorbent article of Claim 80, wherein the substance comprises a bactericidal substance selected from chlorinated levulinic acid, alkyldimethylbenzylammonium halogenides, and combinations thereof.

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82. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the flowable absorbent material remains flowable after absorbing at least 10 ml liquid per gram of flowable absorbent material.

83. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the flowable absorbent material comprises absorbent particles.

84. The absorbent article of Claim 83, wherein the absorbent particles comprise spherical particles.

85. The absorbent article of Claim 83, wherein the spherical particles have a diameter of about 100-2000 microns.

86. The absorbent article of Claim 83, wherein the spherical particles have a diameter of about 200-800 microns.

87. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the flowable absorbent material comprises polymethylene urea.

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88. The absorbent article of Claim 87, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least one third of the flowable absorbent material.

89. The absorbent article of Claim 87, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least one half of the flowable absorbent material.

90. The absorbent article of Claim 87, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least two thirds of the flowable absorbent material.

91. The absorbent article of Claim 87, wherein the polymethylene urea constitutes at least 80% of the flowable absorbent material.

92. The absorbent article of Claim 87, wherein the flowable absorbent material consists essentially of the polymethylene urea.

93. The absorbent article of Claim 87, wherein the polymethylene urea is substantially free of ether groups and formaldehyde.

94. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the flowable absorbent material comprises a superabsorbent material.

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95. The absorbent article of Claim 94, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises a polyacrylate.

96. The absorbent article of Claim 62 having a length and a width, wherein the absorbent body comprises at least one core which contains the flowable absorbent material, the core having a length that is less than or equal to the length of the absorbent article, and a width that is less than or equal to the width of the absorbent article.

97. The absorbent article of Claim 62, wherein the absorbent body comprises at least two chambers, and at least one wall between the chambers.

98. The absorbent article of Claim 97, wherein the wall is aligned in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent article.

99. The absorbent article of Claim 97, wherein the wall is aligned in a transverse direction of the absorbent article.

101. The absorbent article of Claim 96, wherein the core comprises a plurality of chambers.

sub 2 / 103. The hygiene article of Claim 102, comprising a feminine hygiene article.

104. The hygiene article of Claim 102, comprising a sanitary napkin.

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105. The hygiene article of Claim 102, comprising a panty liner.

106. The hygiene article of Claim 102, wherein the liquid-permeable layer comprises a central aperture.

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a. Sub c2  
c. 102  
pad.

107. The absorbent article of Claim 1, comprising a diaper.

108. The absorbent article of Claim 1, comprising an incontinence

pad.

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109. The absorbent article of Claim 62, comprising a feminine hygiene article.

110. The absorbent article of Claim 62, comprising a diaper.

111. The absorbent article of Claim 62, comprising an incontinence

pad.